

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** April 14, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on April 7, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Kerosene Dumping Release, Detroit, Michigan**

On April 3, 2000, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert responded to an illegal dumping of kerosene in the City of Detroit, Michigan. A 20-cubic yard roll-off container was observed leaking material from its base onto a City street. The roll-off container was filled with 2.5-gallon containers of kerosene. With the roll-off container parked in the street, and the potential for fire/explosion associated with the spilled material, OSC Kurt Grunert notified the City of Detroit's Fire Department. The owner of the roll-off container was contacted and arrived on the scene shortly after the City of Detroit Fire Department. The responsible party obtained a cleanup contractor to stabilize and dispose of the materials. The City of Detroit's Environmental Affairs Department was, also, contacted and an investigation is underway to locate the origin of the containers and materials spilled.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

**Emergency Response, Crest Hill Trailer Site, Crest Hill, Illinois**

On March 22, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Thomas Cook responded to a request for assistance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) at an abandoned trailer located on Route 53 in Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, to perform an emergency removal of 23 acetylene-type cylinders, two 55-gallon drums containing paint waste and a fuel tank. Representatives of the Environmental Response Team (ERT), Illinois EPA, Will County Emergency Management, Crest Hill Police Department, and Lockport Fire Department were present during removal activities. The drums were sampled for disposal parameters. The drums, 23 cylinders, and a fuel tank were staged on visqueen. The drums were overpacked and transported to a City of Crest Hill municipal facility for secure storage until disposal can be arranged.

Contact: Thomas Cook (312-886-7182)

**Removal Action Completed, Schmock Oil Company, Michigan City, Indiana**

On March 17, 2000, all removal activities at the Schmock Oil Company site in Michigan City, Indiana, were completed. A final tour of the site was given to Michigan City and County of LaPorte representatives. The cleanup at the abandoned oil recycling facility was initiated in January 2000 and completed at a cost of \$250,000. Over 400 drums and containers, and 18 tanks containing oil contaminated with solvent, flammable liquids, and sludge were removed from the facility and incinerated. In addition, 60-cubic yards of special waste solids, debris, and sludge were shipped to a permitted landfill. The floors and sumps of the building were decontaminated. A 600-gallon underground tank was identified by the Technical Support Section and removed, along with adjacent contaminated soil. U.S. EPA's Brownfields Section attended the close-out meeting and will work closely with the local government entities to ensure that the property and building are brought back into some practical use for the community.

The U.S. EPA became involved with the site in September of 1999, when vandals opened a valve and allowed 1,500 gallons of oil to flow into a neighboring yard and alley way. U.S. EPA responded using the Oil Pollution Fund for cleanup of the spilled oil and contaminated soil. It was then determined

that over 300 drums and containers were abandoned within the building and the drums were found to contain flammable liquids and oil contaminated with solvents. U.S. EPA secured the waste and the building until funding could be secured for this cleanup inside the building.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)  
Bill Ryczek (312-886-7184)

**Emergency Response Initiated, Letts Drop Forge, Detroit, Michigan**

On March 30, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert responded to the discovery of oil spilled from four transformers at an abandoned forging facility by U.S. EPA on March 29, 2000. The City of Detroit (Environmental Affairs and Water and Sewer) and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor mobilized to the site to begin an assessment of the spilled material. OSC Kurt Grunert contacted the owner of the facility and discussed the potential release of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) material associated with the damaged transformers. Following discussions with the OSC, a written access agreement with U.S. EPA was signed and emergency response efforts were initiated by the responsible party. U.S. EPA and the responsible party confirmed the presence of PCBs at levels above 500 parts per million associated with oils collected from the spilled materials. A meeting was held at the Grosse Ile Emergency Response office, on April 5, 2000, to discuss cleanup activities to be performed by the responsible party. Currently, letters of notification and an Administrative Order are being prepared by the U.S. EPA Removal Enforcement Section.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

**Response Initiated, Lindsay Light II Site (North Columbus Drive), Chicago, Illinois**

The North Columbus Drive portion of the Lindsay Light II site is a commercial development on the northern edge of Chicago's Loop. On March 29, 2000, a Unilateral Administrative Order was issued that required the owners to remove the thorium contamination which exceeded the soil cleanup criterion of 7.1 picoCuries per gram (pCi/g) total radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) that included a total radium background of 2.1 pCi/g. As of

March 23, 2000, the highest soil sample result detected was 1,732 pCi/g for total radium. Cleanup work began on April 4, 2000, and resulted, during the first two days, in 16 intermodals (approximately 300 tons) being shipped to Envirocare of Utah. The owners have set-up an onsite laboratory which can provide results within 15 minutes. Work, based upon present estimates of soil volume, is estimated to take 8 weeks.

Contacts: Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)  
Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)

#### **Response Initiated, Windham Alloys Site, Windham, Ohio**

On March 20, 2000, U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch has initiated a time-critical Superfund cleanup at the Windham Alloys Site, Windham, Portage County, Ohio. On-Scene Coordinator Mark Durno is directing the removal of up to 2,500 cubic yards of waste and contaminated soil containing hazardous levels of lead and chromium. The waste was buried behind the Windham Alloy Metals facility and is located approximately 400 feet from the Village of Windham's municipal water wells. The cleanup activities include excavation of wastes and contaminated soil; onsite treatment of excavated materials; transportation and disposal of treated waste and soil to an appropriate disposal facility; and, restoration of the impacted areas. Site activities are anticipated to last approximately 6 weeks and the project will cost approximately \$600,000.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

#### **Complaint and Settlement, Jardine Water Purification Plant, Chicago, Illinois**

On March 31, 2000, U.S. EPA filed a Joint Administrative Complaint and Consent Agreement and Final Order against the City of Chicago, Illinois, Department of Water, Jardine Water Purification Plant, Chicago, Illinois. On July 20, 1998, the Facility had a 500 pound release of chlorine. Chlorine is a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 10 pounds. This is 50 times the RQ. The Facility notified the National Response Center almost two days after the incident. The Water Treatment Plant is located near Navy Pier, which was evacuated because of the incident. As part of the settlement, the Respondent has agreed to pay a

cash penalty of \$3,820 and provide air monitoring equipment to the Chicago Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) is valued at \$11,456.25. The total cash outlay of the SEP and penalty is equal to \$15,276.25. The Respondent will have 30 days to pay the cash penalty and to assist the LEPC in the purchase of the air monitoring equipment.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Settlement, Quality Plating Company, Inc., Muskegon Heights, Michigan**

On March 31, 2000, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving the Administrative Complaint against Quality Plating Company, Inc., Muskegon Heights, Michigan. The Complaint was filed on June 25, 1999, with a proposed penalty of \$24,804. The Respondent failed to submit the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory forms for calendar years 1995-1997 to the State Emergency Response Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the local fire department, as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The Respondent has agreed to pay a \$5,000 penalty. Payment is due in 30 days.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Removal Site Assessment, ChemCentral Farr Street Property, Detroit, Michigan**

On April 4, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert initiated a site assessment of an abandoned tank farm in a residential area of Detroit, Michigan. The Emergency Response Team; Response, Engineering, & Analytical Contract (REAC); and, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) were, also, mobilized to this residential area to begin the investigation into the presence of 40 abandoned underground storage tanks containing uncontrolled hazardous substances. The site was operating from the early 1900's as ChemCentral's solvent and paint manufacturing facility in conjunction with the Reclamation Oil Company Superfund site. The property has since been tax reverted to the City of Detroit. The site assessment is currently being conducted and the U.S. EPA Removal Enforcement Section is preparing to respond to the results of the investigation.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

**Groundwater Pumping and Off-Site Disposal Completed, Northside Landfill Superfund Site, Zionsville, Indiana**

A pumping action that included the off-site disposal of approximately 30,000 gallons of groundwater was completed in March 2000 at the Northside Landfill Superfund site (NSL) in Zionsville, Indiana. The pumping action is required periodically to provide an inward gradient to the groundwater next to the hydraulic isolation wall underneath the landfill cap.

The NSL site is currently in operation and maintenance. Completed remedial action components at NSL include a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste performance cap; a hydraulic isolation wall on the south and west sides of the landfill; a combined leachate/onsite groundwater collection system; a transfer station building for collection and storage of leachate/onsite groundwater to be trucked for disposal to an off-site treatment plant; a groundwater and leachate monitoring

program to assure that off-site migration of contamination doesn't occur; and, access restrictions such as a site fence.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Vermiculite Site Inspections, State of Michigan**

On April 3, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Kurt Grunert continued with Vermiculite Site Inspections in the State of Michigan. Five sites are scheduled for preliminary site investigation and reporting throughout the State of Michigan. The plan is to investigate the possible asbestos contamination of sites in Michigan using guidance from the February 18, 2000, memorandum entitled, "Potential Asbestos Contamination at Mines and Processing Facilities." Members of U.S. EPA and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team are currently conducting the preliminary inspections.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

**Memorandum of Understanding Signed (Superfund Documents Management Section and the Office of Regional Counsel),**

**Chicago, Illinois**

On March 28, 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the Superfund Division's (SFD) Documents Management Section (DMS) and the Office of Regional Counsel (ORC). The purpose of the MOU is to further build and maintain a cooperative working relationship between the SFD and ORC in implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and its Electronic Amendments of 1996. The FOIA Amendments extend the executive agencies' response time from ten to twenty days and allows for further extension based on the context of specific requests. This MOU documents the agreed upon procedures and interactions in processing FOIA requests controlled to the SFD. The MOU will help to further streamline the FOIA process. The DMS processes approximately seventy-four percent (74%) of Region 5's FOIA requests.

Contact: Shirley Smith (312-353-9173)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES****Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 Weapons of Mass Destruction Meeting, Chicago, Illinois**

On April 4-5, 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 Weapons of Mass Destruction meeting was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 Regional Operations Center, Chicago, Illinois. Superfund Division Director, William E. Muno, and Emergency Response Branch, Section Chief, Linda Nachowicz, attended the initial sessions, with Glenn Cekus representing the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention. The agenda items included several presentations by Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) representatives addressing the terrorist threat, coordination with States and Federal agencies, and funding for equipment, training, and planning. Mr. Cekus participated in several break-out sessions on April 5, 2000, that focused upon State Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) activities. He also advised the meeting participants that U.S. EPA is looking at adding a section to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) planning guidance (National Response Team-1) that

addresses WMD response at a local level. The possibility of the above funding being used by Local Emergency Planning Committees to complete WMD annexes to existing EPCRA emergency operations plans resulted in interest on the part of the representatives from the States (particularly Ohio), FEMA, the FBI and DOJ. The funds would be managed by the States.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Annual Hazardous Materials 2000 Spills Prevention Conference,  
St. Louis, Missouri**

On April 4-6, 2000, Silvia Palomo, Robert Mayhugh, and Cheryl McIntyre, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, attended the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Spills Prevention Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's conference was hosted by U.S. EPA Region 7. Representatives from U.S. EPA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, State Emergency Response Commission, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee were among those who attended this Conference. A wide variety of sessions were offered throughout the week, including seminars and a mock exercise. In addition, 43 booths were displayed during the Conference. The exhibitors provided information on their products, such as technologies and services offered.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
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